(ii) The planners do not understand the importance of dispersal of population over the larger area and housing activities of DDA are confined to certain pockets of land where the rates of return are very high. Housing colonies in C.R. Park, Greater Kailash II and Panchsheel Enclave, etc. have come up on main roads.

(iii) The lopsided development has resulted in unauthorised colonies and J.J. clusters because of the denial of roof to the hapless people who migrated to Delhi for their livelihood.

(iv) About 60 percent of Engineers of DDA are idle.

The comments of Government as based on the factual position furnished by the DDA are as under :-

(i) DDA is a non-profit making organisation constituted under Delhi Development Act, 1957 for planned development of Delhi which includes non-profitable uses like green/ recreational areas and semi-public facilities, circulation etc.

(ii) DDA has built flats in different parts of the city to meet the needs of the growing population. Construction of housing colonies like C.R. Park, Panchsheel Enclave, etc. are on service roads and not on main roads. The MPD-2001 recognises and supports the policy of dispersal laid down in the Regional Plan-2001 of NCR.

(iii) DDA provides housing for people of different categories of income including Economically Weaker Sections and Low Income Group. The cost of houses in the case of Economically Weaker Sections and LIG includes an element of subsidy also.

(iv) There is adequate work for all the Engineers working in the DDA.

[Translation]

Kerosene to Granite Factories

4274. SHRI PARASRAM MEGHWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than 450 Granite Factories in Jalore district in Rajasthan depend on kerosene for their operations;

(b) if so, whether the Government have fixed any quota of kerosene for these factories;

(c) if not, the source from where kerosene is being supplied for operating these factories; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) (a) to (d). Kerosene is an allocated product. The Central Government makes bulk allocation of kerosene to the States/UTs on a historical basis, i.e., based on past entitlements. Its retail distribution within the State including allocation to industrial units in the State is the responsibility of the State Government.

Under the Parallel Marketing Scheme, private parties are free to import and market kerosene at market-determined prices. The industrial units including granite factories can get supplies of kerosene from Parallel Marketeers.

[English]

Contractual Workers

4275. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO :
SHRI SANAT MEHTA :
SHRI M. SELVARASU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of contractual workers working under ONGC in Goa under the control of local management and other places;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the tragic plight and exploitation of these workers in respect of wages and other benefits; and

(c) the time by which these contractual labourers are likely to be given regular wages and other benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) ONGC Ltd. awards job contracts depending on the nature of work and operations on the basis of its requirements at various work centres, including Goa. In turn, the contractors engage manpower to carry out the jobs. The Corporation does not have details of the number of persons engaged by the contractors for completing the various jobs.

(b) and (c). ONGC Ltd. keeps a strict vigil to ensure compliance of the statutory obligations under Labour Laws by the contractors in respect of their workers. As per the provisions of the Labour Laws, contractors are required to pay to their workers atleast the minimum wages fixed by the Appropriate Government for the job.

Retired Army Officers in Jammu & Kashmir

4276. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA :
DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the retired army officers have been appointed to head the jails in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Poverty Eradication Programme

4277. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that poverty eradication programme has failed; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No, Sir, the poverty ratio has declined from 1983-84 to 1987-88. This decline can be attributed both to growth of output and employment in the process of economic growth as well as to the impact of poverty alleviation programme.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Decentralisation of the Planning Process

4278. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether non-governmental organisation in their meeting with Finance Minister had suggested for decentralisation of the planning process to make it more responsive to local needs;

(b) whether these NGOs had suggested the Government to abolish the centrally sponsored schemes to achieve that objective; and

(c) if so, the response of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The representatives of the Non-Governmental Organisations in their pre-budget meeting with the Union Finance Minister held on 24th June, 1996 had suggested that the planning process should be decentralised and made more responsive to local needs.

(b) Yes, Sir. They had also suggested that the Centrally Sponsored Schemes should be abolished to bring about true devolution/decentralisation to the States.

(c) The whole issue of transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes to the States is likely to be discussed in the forthcoming meeting of the National Development Council (NDC).

Drinking Water Scheme for Karnataka

4279. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide drinking water in urban areas of Karnataka with the aid of World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the present status of the proposal; and

(c) the details of the urban areas to be covered under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Delay in Developmental Project

4280. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there were 399 developmental projects pending till December last in the country whose costs were more than 20 crore rupees :

(b) if not, the facts in this regard and the Ministry-wise details of these projects;

(c) whether it is a fact that the construction costs of these projects have been increased heavily due to their non-completion on time; and

(d) if so, the original estimated costs of these projects and now their revised estimated costs on their completion and the number of projects out of them which have received loans from foreign financial institutions?